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PRESS RELEASE

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MICHAEL NEWMAN OF WASILLA APPOINTED TO PAROLE BOARD ED RAIS OF ANCHORAGE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN

JUNEAU -- Governor Frank H. Murkowski has appointed retired correctional officer Michael Newman of Wasilla to the Alaska Board of Parole to replace David Cooper of Palmer, who stepped down. The Governor also named board member Ed Rais chairman.

“The Parole Board has been called the hardest working board or commission in Alaska, for very good reason,” said Corrections Commissioner Marc Antrim. “Mike is an excellent choice for the board, as he brings both extensive knowledge and a wide range of experience to this complex and demanding position. I’m also pleased with the selection of Ed Rais as chairman of the board.”

Typically, the board conducts approximately 850 full board and special hearings, more than 500 preliminary hearings, and issues about 600 arrest warrants each year. A number of individual and special hearings are taken up each time the board convenes.

The Parole Board consists of five members selected to five-year terms, with one term expiring each year. The Parole Board is served by a small paid staff, and is responsible for the oversight and approval of parole release, parole revocation and occasional special requests and appeals.

Newman worked as a correctional officer from 1976-1999 and has been posted at a number of Alaska correctional institutions including Point Mackenzie, Spring Creek and Hiland Mountain. Newman has designed and implemented education and therapeutic programs for inmates, and has served as support staff to the Department of Corrections.

Chairman Ed Rais, of Anchorage, is a retired correctional officer and academy instructor.